

## Dick and Tunky Riley Present Award to Martha Dendy/Bell Street Middle School

Excitement ran high as more than 200 School Improvement Council members listened while former US Secretary of Education and SC Governor Richard Riley spoke about their importance on the "learning team." Riley said, "I'm proud of your dedication to the public schools; that you care enough to provide leadership." The former governor went on to talk about how schools have changed over the years and



*Exultant Martha Dendy principal Bill Alexander rushes towards the stage as SIC chair Scottie Davis and Bell Street principal David O'Shields gleefully embrace.*

that competing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century requires focus on the "whole child," and skills such as foreign language, creative writing and thinking, and working in teams.

Then Mrs. Tunky Riley took the podium and spoke of her work years ago on the first SIC in the state. "I'm so proud of every one of you in the room," she said. "Parent involvement is key to everything we do. We appreciate having our name associated with this award." The SIC members from the five schools named as finalists for the Riley Award held their breath as Mrs. Riley

*(continued)*

*See "Riley Award" on page 5*

## Riley Award Honorable Mentions

### Arden Elementary School – Richland County School District One, Columbia

This SIC created a parent center to support good parenting skills and instituted a program to promote compliance with the school uniform policy. They instituted a variety of programs and policies resulting in fewer discipline referrals and measurable increases in parent and teacher satisfaction with the school climate.

### Blythe Academy of Languages – Greenville County School District, Greenville

A variety of programs to improve student achievement, increase communication with parents, and ensure student safety in emergency situations were the focus of this SIC. To help all their students achieve at the highest levels, the SIC offered several programs that successfully helped students to improve academically.

### Doby's Mill Elementary School - Kershaw County School District, Lugoff

They are especially proud of the first annual "Race to Read" event, which promoted family involvement, exercise, and also raised money for the Kershaw County Public Library. The SIC chose to focus on family literacy, parent involvement, and school climate.

### Saluda Trail Middle School - Rock Hill School District Three, Rock Hill

The SIC instituted a wide variety of programs addressing a uniform dress code, legislative advocacy, transportation issues, school climate, and a new International Baccalaureate program. They are most proud of planning, funding, and implementing a sixth grade band program.

## Mike Fanning Receives SIC Advocate Award

The SC-SIC Board of Trustees presented the 2006 SIC Advocate of the Year Award to Mr. Mike Fanning. Mr. Fanning is the Executive Director of the Olde English Consortium based in Rock Hill. He is a firm believer that if he can provide legislative information to SICs, then these councils can effectively share that information with parents and other members of the community.



*SC-SIC board awards committee chair Patrick Cobb presents the 2006 SIC Advocate of the Year Award to Mike Fanning.*

And he doesn't stop at simply educating the parents; he moves them to action, teaching them how to effectively and knowledgeably advocate with their elected officials on behalf of public education. In addition, Mr.

*(continued)*

*See "Advocate Award" on page 2*

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# POINT OF VIEW

SC-SIC Board of Trustees  
Comments and Commentary

## What Does the SC-SIC Board of Trustees Do?

by Jeff Nicholson

As chairperson of the membership committee, I'd like to share some of the responsibilities of the SC-SIC Board of Trustees. Our purpose is to focus statewide attention on the vital role that parents, the community, students, educators, and administrators who serve on SICs play in improving the academic and social development of all students in South Carolina schools. As an advisory board to the director and staff of the SC-SIC office, we bring our local and regional perspectives to issues affecting public education and the operations of the state office. We advocate for the inclusion of SICs when public input is needed on key issues in education on the local, regional and state levels. Board members attend a minimum of four quarterly meetings in Columbia and also assist the SC-SIC office with training at state conferences and local schools and districts as requested.

We are a group of 18 elected and three ex-officio members who represent each congressional district in South Carolina. The diverse board is comprised of parents, teachers, administrators, and community members. Just as local SICs strive to be representative of their local school community, the state board makes every attempt to be representative of South Carolina in terms of gender, race, and geography. Our terms of service are three years (staggered) with the possibility of additional terms. We serve without compensation, allowing all funding to go directly toward support of SICs and public education.

Anyone may put their name forward to stand for election to the state board. The most important qualifications are a demonstrated commitment to public education and a sphere of influence in your local community. Elections for open board positions are held in late summer/early fall and the board chair fills any unexpired terms by appointment during the year. If you know someone who would make a good board member or you'd like to serve yourself, please forward a resume and letter of interest electronically to [sic@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:sic@gwm.sc.edu) or by US Mail to the following address: SC-School Improvement Council, USC-College of Education, Columbia, SC 29208, Attn: Membership Chair

*Jeff Nicholson is employed by Laboratory Design & Equipment, Inc., in Fort Mill. Mr. Nicholson serves on the Saluda Trail Middle School SIC and was elected to the SC-SIC Board of Trustees in 2004, where he chairs the Membership Committee. You can reach Mr. Nicholson at 803-548-0067 or at [jeffn@cetlink.net](mailto:jeffn@cetlink.net).*

### "Advocate Award"

*cont. from page 1*

Fanning can make even a relatively dry topic lively and interesting. He knows how to motivate people to get involved.

Mike Fanning knows the importance of School Improvement Councils and the difference they can make for public education. He has used his passion for public education and his gift for presenting information to promote and empower SICs for years.

The SIC Advocate of the Year Award recognizes exemplary efforts by an individual or team on behalf of school improvement councils. This award is presented by the SC School Improvement Council Board of Trustees to someone who goes above and beyond to support and promote school improvement councils in their particular sphere of influence. In previous years the award has been presented to a district level staff person, a pair of legislators, and a principal - SIC chair team.

*Council News - Spring 2006*



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# 2006 Dick and Tunky Riley School Improvement Award Winners!



Members of the Dendy/Bell SIC accept the 2006 Dick and Tunky Riley School Improvement Award. L-R: Scottie Davis; Donna Jacobs; Diane Rischbieter, SIC chair; Dr. Bill Alexander, Martha Dendy principal; Secretary Riley; Mrs. Riley; Terri O'Shields; Dr. David O'Shields, Bell Street principal.



Saluda Trail Middle School now has three Honorable Mentions for the Riley Award! L-R: Phil Leazer, SIC chair; Brenda Campbell, principal; Dick Riley; Tunky Riley; Audrey Lightner.



Members of the Blythe Academy of Languages SIC meet the Rileys. L-R: Tracy Rucker; Carole Flashpoehler, SIC co-chair; Dick Riley; Tunky Riley; principal Ann King.



Larry Dobbs (center) proudly displays the Honorable Mention plaque won by Arden Elementary. Adults L-R: Brenda Percy; Secretary Dick Riley; Racquel Dobbs, SIC chair.

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The Doby's Mill Elementary SIC took home an Honorable Mention for the Riley Award. L-R: Todd Wood; Secretary Riley; Mrs. Riley; Karen Dewey.

# “Setting the Stage for Civic Engagement”

## Tools for Training Now Available!

Civic engagement was the theme for the spring 2006 regional SIC trainings. Participants attended four general sessions designed to help council members become better advocates for their schools and the children in their communities. If you missed the trainings, want to review a session attended, or would like to train SIC members back home who couldn't make it to the training, help is on the way! All of the sessions including the Riley and SIC Advocate Award presentations in Columbia are available for



SC-SIC board member, Jeff Nicholson, takes questions from the audience.

loan from the SC-SIC office: 800-868-2232 or sic@gwm.sc.edu. Two of the sessions (noted below) containing particularly useful training materials will be available on the SC-SIC website in streaming video, along with PowerPoint presentations from those sessions until August 31, 2006.

Sessions from the March 25 training in Columbia include:

### “Where Are We Now and Where Are We Going?”

Dana Yow, communications director for the SC Education Oversight Committee, shares the latest information from the EOC report, “A Changing South Carolina, Implications for Education.” Where people live, their ages, and their income level have implications for school enrollments and finances. South Carolina's students are increasingly diverse and increasingly poor, conditions that challenge student achievement. Middle grades students have health problems affecting achievement, and high school students do not graduate on time. Streaming video of Ms. Yow's presentation along with her PowerPoint presentation is available on the SC-SIC website:

[www.ed.sc.edu/sic](http://www.ed.sc.edu/sic) on the Training/Events page. The facts about these conditions are found in the census data and SDE and EOC analyses. For more details, access the EOC website: [www.sceoc.org](http://www.sceoc.org) or the SDE website: [www.myschools.com](http://www.myschools.com) or the Kids Count website: [www.kidscount.org](http://www.kidscount.org) to get the facts about your county and district.

### “Who's at the Table? Collaborating for School Improvement”

Once you've identified the issues your SIC needs to deal with, how will you get the talent and resources you need to achieve your goals? Collaboration was the focus of the second session conducted by Cassie Barber, associate director of SC-SIC. Participants learned how SIC leadership can bring others to the table to benefit the school and how to build and nurture relationships - even among individuals and groups who are very different from one another. Four keys to collaboration - value, relationship, ownership, and responsibility - lead to the achievement of shared goals and sustained school improvement. Ms. Barber's presentation is available on streaming video at [www.ed.sc.edu/sic](http://www.ed.sc.edu/sic) along with a companion PowerPoint.



Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter and Senator Joel Lourie share a laugh.

### “Legislative Update: Politics and Education Policy”

SIC members need to have input in education policy, but keeping up with the latest policy debates and proposals for new education legislation can be daunting. Members of the SC House and Senate provided SIC members with the latest legislative updates during the regional trainings. SC-SIC has gathered a variety of policy resources to help SIC members stay on top of the latest happenings at the state house. Check out the Legislative/Advocacy page

at [www.ed.sc.edu/sic](http://www.ed.sc.edu/sic) and make your voice heard!

### “And Now What? Civic Engagement in Public Education!”

The Dick and Tunky Riley Award and the SIC Advocate of the Year Award celebrate and recognize the actions taken by school improvement councils and individuals that make a real difference in public education. The final session of the training provided an entertaining and informative capstone focused on civic engagement in politics.

Using various dance steps to describe the changes in education over the years, Ellen



Ellen Still explains the “legislative dance.”

Still, president of Education Builders, provided a humorous historical revue. She described the change in the focus of decision making from the school to the state and now to the federal level, and the shift from financial to program to performance accountability. Each of these changes occurred due to legislation and citizens have the opportunity and the obligation to influence their legislators. Ms. Still gave specific suggestions on how SIC members could successfully engage in the political dance with their legislators - for the benefit of our children.





## NCLB: School Choice and Supplemental Education Services (Free Tutoring!)

Under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law, every state is required to set Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) goals that each school must meet. If a Title I school fails to make Adequate Yearly Progress for two consecutive years,\* the school must offer **choice** to students. This means that a student may choose to transfer to another school within the district that has met AYP.

Another option when Title I schools are in “needs improvement” status for a second consecutive year is supplemental services. These free tutoring services are offered to assist students in reading, language arts and math so that they will attain proficiency in South Carolina’s academic achievement standards. This extra help can be provided before or after school or on weekends. Students in these schools are eligible to receive **supplemental education services** if they are from a low-income family.

If you have questions or wish to know more about what this means for your child and your child’s school, here are some resources:

Visit the SC Department of Education’s website, [www.myschools.com](http://www.myschools.com), click on federal programs, then go to the section on choice or supplemental services. You can also click on the Districts and Schools section at the top of the page to go to your school district’s website. From there look for the

Title I coordinator or Federal Programs Officer for gaining further information on your particular school.

You can also contact Parentwise, a program of Voices for SC’s Children at [www.scchildren.org](http://www.scchildren.org) or call the program director, Nan Ford, at 803-256-4670 or toll-free 877-256-5374. Parentwise provides parents with training, information, and support to help them to better understand their child’s developmental and educational needs. These services are provided through a partnership with United Way Success By 6 and local school districts. Five counties in South Carolina - Beaufort, Florence, Greenville, Lexington, and York - provide direct parent resources through school-based centers.

– Nan Ford

(\*Editor’s note: SC-SIC has a variety of resources to help you learn more about NCLB and AYP. Visit the SC-SIC website [www.ed.sc.edu/sic](http://www.ed.sc.edu/sic) and download your copy of *Answers to Your Questions About No Child Left Behind in South Carolina* or call the SC-SIC office 800-868-2232 to order hard copies. You can also access two segments of *Council Update – Understanding AYP and Accountability* and *AYP, Choice and Supplemental Services* – on streaming video on the SIC Technology Toolkit page when you visit the SC-SIC website, or contact your local DELC and request a copy.)



### “Riley Award”

(continued from page 1)

opened the envelope containing the name of the winner: Martha Dendy Sixth Grade Center and Bell Street Middle School in Clinton, SC.

Dr. David O’Shields, spokesman for the Dendy/Bell SIC, thanked the members of his school community for coming together for education, even in the face of significant job loss and financial uncertainty. O’Shields also recognized the work of the other finalists and said that “together, working collaboratively, we as a state can create an intentional com-

munity for the good of the children. That’s what it’s all about.”

The Riley Award recognizes exemplary civic engagement by a school improvement council. The Dendy/Bell SIC won the Riley Award for a variety of activities they spearheaded to engage the community in public education and to engage students in learning. The four remaining finalists (see box, page 1) for the award received honorable mention plaques. Visit [www.ed.sc.edu/sic](http://www.ed.sc.edu/sic) for more information about the Riley Award.

– Cassie Barber

## SIC Action Timeline



### April

- Complete the Report to the Parents and distribute by April 30.
- Committees gather and analyze information about improvement goals.
- Make plans for SIC elections (some SICs hold elections in the fall).

### May

- Work with principal to draft narrative for the School Report Card.
- Compile progress reports about each school improvement plan strategy.
- Conduct elections of new SIC members (optional).
- Identify and recruit community members to serve on the SIC next year.

### June

- Complete Report Card narrative with the principal.
- Submit recommendations for update of the school improvement plan.
- Elect officers and assign committees if elections were held in the spring.
- Establish study groups to work over the summer to analyze information from the Report Card, the survey results for parents, teachers, and students and/or the recommendations from the ERT (if applicable).



# Got Grant? Get More Milk into Your School!

We all know that the nutritional habits of our students is a daily concern. Consider the following:

At the same time that childhood obesity has been on the rise, milk consumption has been on the decline.

Among kids 6-11, 71% of girls and 62% of boys don't meet calcium requirements. In ages 12-19, 68% of males and a whopping 88% of females don't meet calcium requirements.

Dairy contributes only 9% of the calories in the food supply, but 73% of the calcium.

Three daily servings of dairy – as recommended by the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatricians, the American Dietetic Association, and the U.S. Surgeon General – provide a major portion of the Daily Value for critical nutrients.

Dairy's health benefits include bone health, lower risk of hypertension and, as new science shows, healthy weight.

Milk, cheese and yogurt are naturally nutrient-rich foods providing calcium, potassium, other mineral and vitamins, and protein essential for children's growth and development. Research shows that kids who get recommended amounts of dairy foods have better nutrient intake overall. The sad

truth is that for many students, virtually their entire daily dairy consumption of calcium comes from school meals. Efforts are being made to increase children's and adolescents' dairy product consumption.

These include increasing children's participation in school meals, creating healthy school nutrition environments supportive of healthy food consumption, including a wide variety of dairy foods, and improving the look, temperature, and taste of school milk.

The **Southeast Dairy Association** would like to help make dairy foods work in all South Carolina schools! Through funds made available by dairy farmer families in South Carolina, the Association is offering several grants and resources to improve the appeal and availability of milk and dairy foods in schools. Apply for grants from \$500 to \$2,000 that can help you get a milk vending machine, make breakfast available for all students, and help make dairy products more appealing to students. To learn how to apply for these grants and access other resources for good school nutrition, visit the SC-SIC website [www.ed.sc.edu/sic](http://www.ed.sc.edu/sic) and click on

Link to Learn More. – Questions? Contact: Dottie Ryan, RD, LDN, Program Director, Southeast United Dairy Industry Association, Inc. 1-866-999-6283 [dryan@sudiainc.com](mailto:dryan@sudiainc.com).

